

identified patent application, please enter the foregoing amendments.

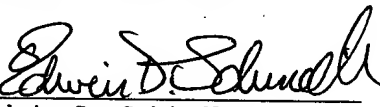
Claims 1-19 are now pending in the above-identified patent application. Claim 1 is the single claim presented in independent form.

By the present amendments, original dependent Claims 4, 5, 7-12 and 14-16 have been amended in order to remove the multiple dependencies from such claims. The reference numerals existing in the claims have also been deleted. The application is now in condition for a full examination on the merits.

Accordingly, an early examination on the merits and allowance are, therefore, respectfully requested and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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